

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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the Soviets have declared themselves thoroughly dissatisfied with this year's International Samples Fair which was held in Plovdiv from 31 August to 14 September. They complained to the Bulgarians not only about the Fair in general, but also, in particular, about the space allocated to them which they considered was inadequate for their purposes. 25X1

2. It appears that the Soviets are now considering abolishing most of the annual Satellite trade fairs, with the notable exception of the Leipzig Fair which has been reduced to one "performance" a year instead of two, and organizing in their place one very large fair every three or four years at sites to be determined in the future.

Comments:

1. Soviet complaints about the lack of exhibition space given to them at Plovdiv are ridiculous when it is considered what poor use they made of the two pavilions and outdoor space which were put at their disposal. 25X1
2. It is hardly surprising that, even if the other fairs are abolished, the Leipzig Fair will be permitted to function. The East German exhibits at Plovdiv were superior in quality to those of any of the other Communist countries.
3. The Plovdiv Fair, formerly an annual event, was not held in 1951, and whatever other decisions are reached about Satellite exhibitions, there will not be another trade fair at Plovdiv until 1954 at the earliest.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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